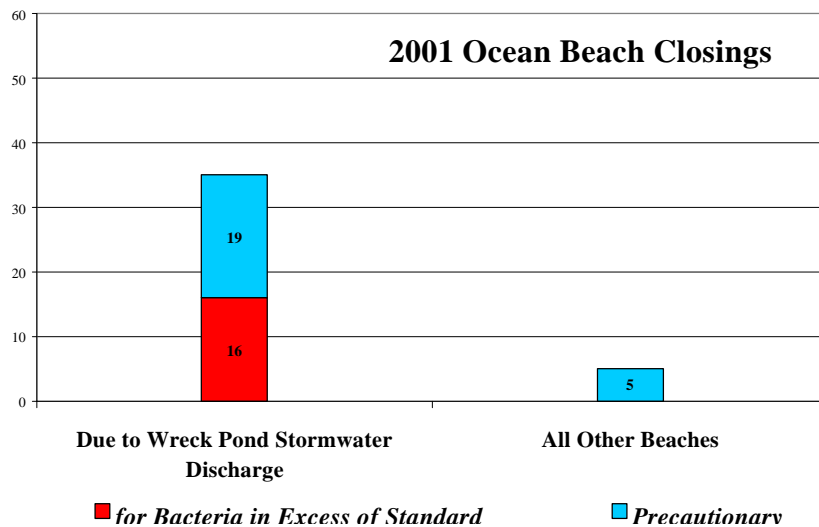
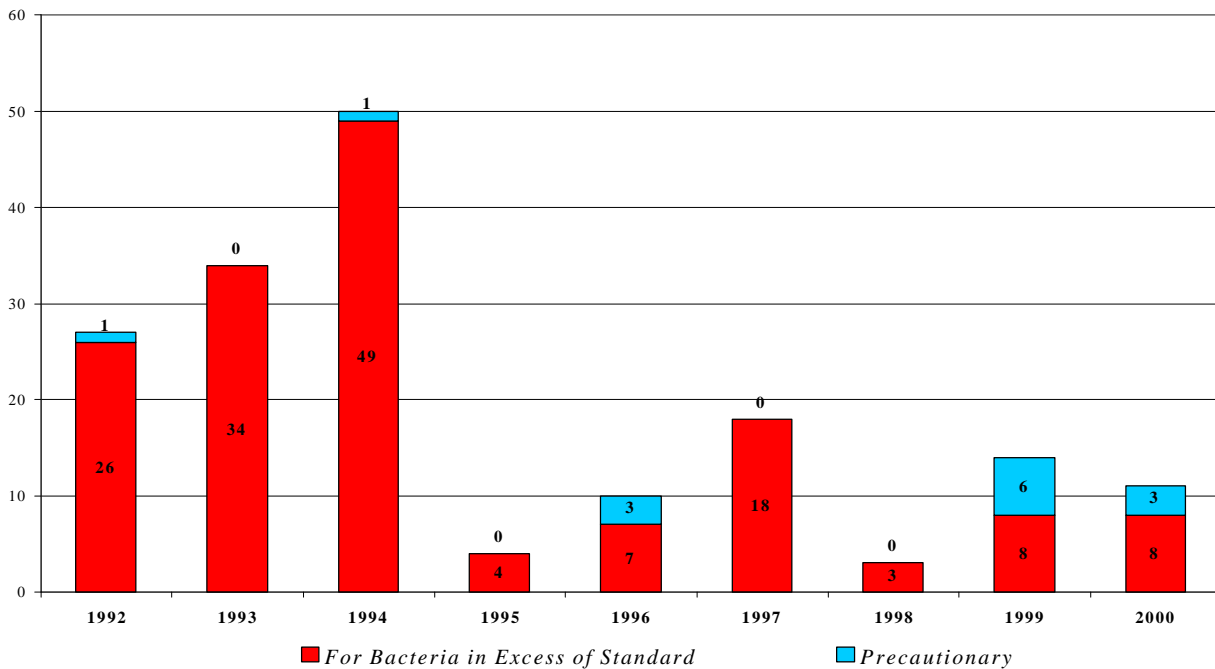


**MILESTONE:** By 2005, 100% of New Jersey's coastal recreational beach waters will be safe for swimming.

**INDICATOR:** Ocean and Bay Beach Closings

### Ocean Beach Closings 1992 - 2000



35 of the 40 ocean beach closings in 2001 were associated with Wreck Pond. The other 5 closings were precautionary; 4 in Atlantic City due to a broken sewer line and one in Long Branch due to a sewage overflow to a storm drain.

**Total number of ocean beaches: 187**

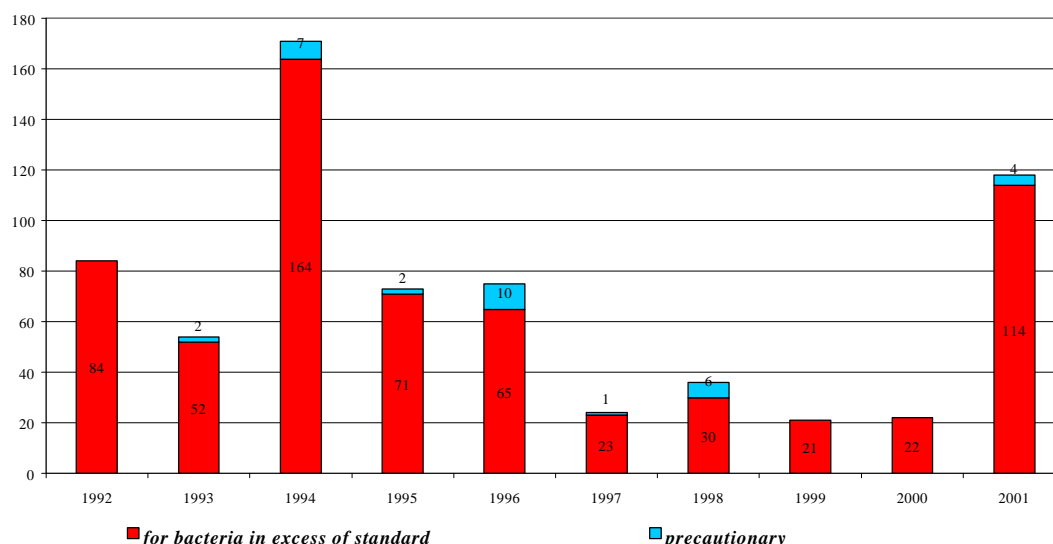
The increase in ocean and bay beach closings in the 2001 summer season may be attributed to frequent periods of intense rainfall and the resulting stormwater discharges. The ocean beaches of Spring Lake were particularly affected by the rainfall's impact on the Wreck Pond discharge. The volume of flow through the Wreck Pond watershed caused significant flows to the ocean and, with those flows, an

This fact sheet contains the most current, available data. For additional information on development of this indicator, please see the [Environmental Indicators Technical Report, 2nd Edition](#).

extraordinary amount of bacteria-laden sediment. The affected beaches extended through the 2 1/2 miles of Spring Lake for two days in August.

Sources of pollution to the pond include stormwater discharges directly to the pond, a large migratory and non-migratory bird population, pet waste and lawn fertilization. All of these factors contribute to the eutrophication of the pond and to the elevated levels of fecal coliform bacteria discharged to the ocean during rain events. In 2001, thirty-five separate beach closings (six at Brown Avenue, twenty-nine at adjacent beaches in Spring Lake and Sea Girt) can be attributed to contaminated stormwater from Wreck Pond. Sediment in Wreck Pond has been analyzed and been found to contain high concentrations of fecal coliform bacteria. NJDEP is currently working with local stakeholders to address the elevated bacteria levels in the pond.

### Bay Beach Closings 1992 - 2001



**Total number of bay beaches: 139**

In 2001, there were 118 bay beach closings on 21 different beaches. Most of the bay beach closings (78%) were at beaches that experience regular, predictable closings following rainstorms. It is believed that frequent periods of intense rainfall and the resulting impacts (bacteria and sediment flushing) were responsible for the increased number of bay beach closings during summer 2001. Factors such as rain and stormwater discharges and large bird populations all contribute to increased levels of bacteria at bay bathing beaches. Several of the municipalities with high numbers of beach closings have been given grants or are working cooperatively with the Department on other projects to clean and inspect storm sewers and investigate sources of contamination.

*Data Source: NJDEP Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program, DWM*